

**HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**16 May 2002**

The regular meeting of the North Hampton Heritage Commission was held on 16 May 2002, at 10:00 A.M., at the North Hampton Library, with Jane Palmer serving as chairman pro tem. Others present were Barbara Hobby, Penelope Kennedy, Selectman Jenifer Landman, Priscilla Leavitt, Peter Parker, Pamela Schwotzer, library representative, Robert Southworth, and Jane Meneghin.

Jane Palmer welcomed the new members, and then called for the election of officers for the coming year. Barbara Hobby was elected treasurer; Jane Meneghin, secretary; Jane Palmer, chair; Bob Southworth, co-chair.

Chairman Jane asked if there were any questions in regard to the April minutes. Priscilla reported that Shaw's voted not to donate money to the Heritage Commission. Jenny will write a proposal for Jane P. to use while requesting a donation from Shaws. Peter said that the New Hampshire Historical Society does not have any information about North Hampton's Heritage Commission on its database, and suggested that we should have the Society on our distribution list for everything that the Commission publishes. Peter objected to the statement in the April minutes that said that he had "...offered to sketch out some sort of protocol, and will bring it to the next meeting." The minutes were then accepted as read.

Treasurer Barbara reported the total of the bills to be \$135.55, leaving a balance of \$364.45. There was discussion about whether or not we were working with our current \$500 budget or that of last year's. It was decided that we are dealing with this year's \$500 budget, and that we need to spend what we now have in our treasury or we will lose it at the end of this fiscal year. Peter offered to check the town budget to see if our request for \$1000 for the coming year was ever made last December.

There was discussion about Bob's Report. Bob reviewed Bonnie Newman's various accomplishments and titles. He has added her and Herbert A. Philbrick to his list of important persons who have lived in North Hampton. Priscilla will write a paragraph about Col. Abraham Drake, to be included in Bob's list. Pam pointed out that the Bob's Report should be called the "Third Report," inasmuch as we already have Report One and Report Two (the walking brochure). Peter suggested that it would be useful for one to refer to Report Two when one speaks of locations in Report Three because doing that would key the information about places in Bob's Report Three.

New Business: North Hampton Forever has requested a representative from the HC to join their committee; Jane asked for volunteers. Peter offered to meet with them if nobody else could. Jane pointed out that it is important for us to keep in touch, and that she had attended the recent North Hampton Forever meeting. She then reported on the Metalious (Garland) property easement that was just bought by the North Hampton Conservation Commission in the name of the town. She explained why it has been difficult to see the property on the 1847 and 1892 maps—the house is located on a Rye Road with a Rye address. The town acquired 16.1 acres in this purchase, which eliminates five house lots. Priscilla talked about a copy of a journal that the Historical Society was given by one of the descendants. There was discussion about what type rights are involved in the easement. Jenny talked about what the homeowner plans to do with the property and the 30 years worth of diaries, copies of which the owner has agreed to give to the HC.

Chairman Jane said that we need a permanent mailing address; after some discussion, it was decided that we would use 237A Atlantic Avenue (the library) as our official mailing address. Jenny suggested that the list of the newly elected officers be sent to Russ McCallister for the next Town Report.

Bob explained what is involved in the goal of the historic-houses project, along with the approach to be taken in carrying this project through. He and Penny had met and decided how they would go about it: review one street or one area at a time, and then within each area they would indicate the interesting houses. They will do what they can in the time they have. The hundred oldest houses have been photographed, so they will check the library collection of pictures. The project will comprise houses of interest and not necessarily the oldest houses.

Peter suggested that any time Planning or Zoning receives a request to demolish a property, said property be photographed before it is demolished, and that the photograph should become part of the permitting process. Chairman Jane pointed out that what he suggests is already procedure. Jenny said that the current building inspector has been informed of that, and that they are trying to hire a full-time building inspector. She said that the age of the house should be on the building inspector's form, which would serve as a trigger. Jenny will make that an action item. Penny asked about salvage opportunities when a house is being demolished. Jane P. explained that we couldn't stop persons from demolishing, but that we can request taking pictures and artifacts before it be demolished.

Bob moved that the old-houses survey be passed, and everyone accepted.

Discussions were held about the various uses to which the vacated space in town hall can be put and the ensuing problems involved.

Jenny reported that she had telephoned several local towns to inquire about how their historical societies acquired their museums, and what was involved in maintaining them. More discussion ensued in regard to whether or not North Hampton was ready to have a historical museum, and how to go about getting one. She passed out copies of her findings. Jane said that in the next three or four years, we would be happy to have a heritage office in the vacated town hall in which to hold meetings and put our computer. Someone will ask Howard for the code to the computer.

Peter passed out his "Topics for Discussion" outline that he had prepared for our consideration. Peter, Priscilla, and Jenny will discuss the issues and return to us with recommendations. Our priority is that of getting an office for the HC. Jenny pointed out that once we have a place to store our artifacts, more persons would take an interest in the town's heritage. Chairman Jane added that having a museum would also attract grants.

There was discussion about what should be made available for the public and what should be protected. Chairman Jane said that we should leave the material for the public's use in the library; the rest of the material should be kept in the new HC office for safekeeping. Issues of ownership of the material will be resolved by making copies of the documents.

The next meeting will be held 20 June 2002, at 10:00 A.M., at the NHPL.

At 11:07 A.M., Bob moved that we adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Meneghin

